

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05684 01 OF 02 120506Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/077 W

-----029616 120514Z /11/61

R 111145Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7618
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC
CINCEUR
COMIDEASTFOR
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 5684

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT, MORG, MPOL, PK
SUBJECT: IMPENDING SHIFTS AMONG SENIOR ARMY GENERALS

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD-A-69(NOTAL) (B) ISLAMABAD 2294
(C) ISLAMABAD 1995 (D) USDAO ISLAMABAD 081115Z JUN 78 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: A SERIES OF SHIFTS AT SENIOR LEVELS IN THE
PAKISTAN ARMY, COUPLED WITH WIDESPREAD CHANGES IN THE
TOP LEVELS OF THE PAKISTAN CIVIL SERVICE, SUGGEST A FURTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05684 01 OF 02 120506Z

BEDDING DOWN OF THE REGIME FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF THE
CMLA TO GET ANY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL FIGURES TO JOIN WITH
HIM, ON HIS TERMS, IN A GOVERNMENT AIMED AT BROADENING
HIS REGIME'S POLITICAL BASE. QUESTION: IS GENERAL ZIA
BEGINNING TO EYE THE PRESIDENCY? END SUMMARY.

2. DATT HAS REPORTED (REF D), AND EMBASSY HAS HEARD

FROM ONE OTHER SOURCE, THAT SEVERAL IMPORTANT SHIFTS ARE IMMINENT WITHIN THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE PAK ARMY. THEY ARE:

A. TRANSFER OF LGEN MUHAMMAD IQBAL FROM GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING (GOC) FIFTH CORPS AND MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, KARACHI, TO RAWALPINDI TO ASSUME VACANT POST OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (D/COAS);

B. TRANSFER OF LGEN SADIQ ABBASI, NOW CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF (CGS), TO KARACHI IN PLACE OF IQBAL;

C. TRANSFER OF MGEN LODI, NOW GOC 17 DIVISION AT KHARIAN, TO RAWALPINDI IN PLACE OF ABBASI AS CGS;

D. RETIREMENT OF LGEN A.B. AWAN, CURRENTLY COMMANDANT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE, RAWALPINDI;

E. ASSIGNMENT OF MGEN ANWAR MASOOD, NOW DIRECTOR, MILITARY TRAINING (DMT) AND I.G. PAK ARMY, TO REPLACE AWAN;

F. ASSIGNMENT OF BRIG, RAJA SAROOP KHAN, NOW DIRECTOR, MILITARY OPERATIONS (DMO) PAK ARMY, AS VICE CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 05684 01 OF 02 120506Z

3. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE TIMING OF THE TRANSFERS, BUT DATT SOURCE INDICATES THAT ORDERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CUT FOR ALL BUT AWAN, AND THE URDU PRESS IS ALREADY SPECULATING ON THE IQBAL TRANSFER.

4. DATT REPORT INDICATES THAT GENERAL ZIA UL-HAQ DECIDED TO BRING IQBAL TO RAWALPINDI TO FILL LONG VACANT D/COAS POSITION TO BRING HIS CONSIDERABLE TALENTS TO BEAR ON THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF THE ARMY, A ROLE ABBASI HAS BEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY FILLING AS CGS. WITH IQBAL AS HIS ARMY DEPUTY, ZIA WILL BE ABLE TO RELIEVE HIMSELF OF SOME OF THE DUAL BURDEN HE HAS BEEN CARRYING AS COAS AND CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) FOR MOST OF THE LAST YEAR. ZIA IS SAID ALSO TO BELIEVE IQBAL WAS SPENDING TOO MUCH OF HIS TIME ON MLA MATTERS AND NOT ENOUGH ON THE ARMY. COMMENT: AT THE TIME IQBAL WAS SHIFTED TO KARACHI, EARLIER THIS YEAR, IT WAS LAW AND ORDER MLA MATTERS WHICH FIRST COMMANDED AND ENGAGED HIS ATTENTIONS; HIS RECORD IN THIS RESPECT HAS BEEN VERY GOOD BY ALL ACCOUNTS. END COMMENT.

5. DATT REPORT SUGGESTS ABBASI IS A "YES MAN" BUT IS REGARDED AS QUALIFIED TO HANDLE KARACHI JOB. LGEN AWAN,

ONE OF THE SHARPEST AND MOST INTERNATIONALLY-MINDED OFFICERS
IN THE PAK ARMY, WILL REPORTEDLY RECEIVE AN AMBASSADORIAL
POST.

6. COMMENT: WITH WIDESPREAD SHIFTS NOW UNDERWAY IN THE
TOP REACHES OF THE PAKISTAN CIVIL SERVICE (REFAIR) AND
FOLLOWING GENERAL ZIA'S FAILURE TO PUT TOGETHER SOME
TYPE OF POLITICAL GOVERNMENT, THE ARMY SHIFTS WILL BE
WIDELY INTERPRETED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE MARTIAL
LAW ADMINISTRATION'S PREPARATIONS FOR A LONG RUN ON THE
RAWALPINDI STAGE. INDEED, THE IQBAL ASSIGNMENT IS PERHAPS
THE MOST IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT ZIA HAS MADE IN SOME TIME,
SINCE IT WILL ENABLE HIM TO TURN OVER THE RUNNING OF THE
ARMY TO AN ABLE, RESPECTED, TRUSTED, AND APPROPRIATELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 05684 01 OF 02 120506Z

SENIOR SUBORDINATE AND TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS ROLE AS CMLA,
I.E. HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05684 02 OF 02 120319Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/077 W

-----029362 120323Z /63

R 111145Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7619
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC
CINCEUR
QOMIDEASTFOR
RUEKJCSXDIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 5684

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLAD

7. SOME WILL SEE IN THE SHIFTS ALSO SOME POSSIBLE EROSION OF ZIA'S AUTHORITY, ESPECIALLY GIVEN HIS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND HIS RECENT ILLNESS (FROM WHICH HE SEEMS TO HAVE RECOVERED). IQBAL AND LGEN CHISHTI, ZIA'S OUTSPOKEN CABINET-LEVEL ADVISOR ON PARLIAMENTARY, ESTABLISHMENT, AND KASHMIR AFFAIRS, ARE REGARDED BY NEARLY ALL OBSERVERS AS THE TWO STRONGEST MEN IN THE PAK ARMY, AFTER ZIA; FOR THAT REASON, THEY VIRTUALLY CANCEL OUT AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO THE CMLA, WHEN THAT SUBJECT IS SPECULATED UPON. PUTTING THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF THE ARMY AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAND IN AS COAS IN IQBAL'S HANDS WILL OBVIOUSLY ENHANCE HIS PRESTIGE, BUT THE JOB
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05684 02 OF 02 120319Z

DENIES HIM DIRECT COMMAND OF TROOPS. CHISHTI, WHO ALSO HOLDS A CORPS COMMAND, IS INCREASINGLY BOGGED DOWN WITH HIS POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CMLA.

8. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, THE EVIDENCE IS INCONCLUSIVE ON THE IMPACT OF THESE LATEST SHIFTS ON ZIA'S POSITION. ALL THAT CAN BE SAID FOR THE MOMENT IS THAT LIKE THE SHUFFLE OF CORPS COMMANDERS EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE MOVES APPEAR TO BE ZIA'S IDEA AND REFLECT HIS OWN BEST JUDGEMENT ON HOW BEST TO GET THE ARMY'S JOB DONE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS A ROLE IN WHICH HE IS MOST SECURE, ROOTED AS IT IS IN THE ARMY'S TRADITIONAL DISCIPLINE AND LOYALTY AND ITS RESPECT FOR THE OFFICE OF "THE CHIEF". OTHERS, OF COURSE, MAY SEE IN THE IQBAL MOVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP AN INCREASINGLY FREEWHEELING ZIA IN LINE.

9. THERE WILL BE SPECULATION, HOWEVER, AS THE SUMMER WEARS ON ABOUT ZIA'S FUTURE INTENTIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE PRESIDENCY. THE EXAMPLE AND SUCCESS OF HIS NAMESAKE 1500 MILES EAST IN DACCA CANNOT BE TOTALLY LOST ON HIM. DESPITE HIS DISCLAIMERS OF INTEREST IN A POLITICAL ROLE, HE COULD WELL BE PONDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO DECLARE HIMSELF PRESIDENT WHEN INCUMBENT FAZAL ELAHI CHAUDHRY'S TERM OFFICIALLY ENDS IN AUGUST. THE CHANGES HE IS ABOUT TO SET IN MOTION COULD BE THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD THAT END.
HUMMEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESIDENT, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, REORGANIZATIONS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA05684
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0088
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780672/aaaackaj.tel
Line Count: 219
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47a3bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ISLAMABAD A-69, 78 ISLAMABAD 2294, 78 ISLAMABAD 1995
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2402193
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPENDING SHIFTS AMONG SENIOR ARMY GENERALS
TAGS: PINT, MORG, MPOL, PGOV, PK, (ZIA UL-HAQ, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47a3bf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014